



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ronald K. Yamamoto et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DEYP002C1

Application No.: 09/782,794

Examiner: Javier G. Blanco

Filed: February 13, 2001

Group: 3738

Title: BONE GRAFTING MATRIX

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on July 15, 2003 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop 3738, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signed: _____

Joyce L. Ferreira

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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JUL 23 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please enter the following amendments:

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims.

Claim 26. (New) A porous, biodegradable, three-dimensionally fixed matrix for the replacement of bone comprising a bound network of water-insoluble biopolymer fibers, mineral, and a water-soluble binder rendered insoluble by cross-linking wherein said mineral is immobilized within said matrix by said binder.

Claim 27. (New) A matrix according to claim 26 which maintains physical integrity for a period of at least about three days after implant into a physiological environment in which bone replacement is occurring.